

Royal Weidner and Agnes Kane House  
211 Ruskin Drive  
Llyswen Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5906

HAES  
PA  
7-ALTO.  
158-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ROYAL WEIDNER AND AGNES KANE HOUSE

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Location: 211 Ruskin Drive

Date of Erection: ca. 1915-17

Description: The Craftsman aesthetic combines with a basic Dutch Colonial revival form in this two-story, cross-gambrel house. False half-timbering and the simple brick columns and plain wood rail of the wide, low porch are definitive Craftsman expressions, as are the small double windows flanking the side chimney. The lot slopes away to the rear, allowing a garage underneath the house. A rear porch was converted into a sunroom that takes advantage of the view of Brush Mountain to the east. The house has a stone foundation, brick veneer on the first story, and stucco infill above.

History: In 1915 Royal Weidner Kane, a molder for the PRR, purchased a portion of Llysven lot 17, block 17 on the Duncansville Road for \$350 from a grocer named Soloinon Dembert. At that time Kane still resided with the large and extended family occupying his father's big house at 100 Holmes Ave. By 1917, however, he and his wife, Agnes, were taxed for a house and partial lot with an assessed value of \$950. The Kanes sold their home in 1956 to Walter F. Kuhn, a salesman, and his wife, Charlotte, for \$10,000. The present owners acquired it from the Kubns in 1962.

Sources: Maps: 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 143/382, 143/387, 211/212, 229/586, 234/589, 242/404, 281/566, 282/58, 285/544, 320/378, 374/99, 374/101, 562/232, 562/234, 730/264, 799/603.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llysven (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.